



CALPEEK

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FULL METAL JACKET: SANTEE SHOOTING RESULTS IN NO ADDITIONAL CALLS FOR MORE GUN CONTROL

Editor's note: Oddly enough there hasn't been the usual call for additional gun control after Charles Andrew Williams shot to death two schoolmates and wounded 13 others at Santana High School this past Mar. 5th. We'll explore some of the reasons and take a look at what's ahead for gun laws in 2001. Here's our brief update & analysis...

... Why no calls for more gun control after this horrible incident? First, Calif. already has some *very tough laws* in place regarding minors and gun possession. Under laws authored by State Sen. Steve Peace(D-San Diego) and Jack Scott(D-Pasadena), the 15-year-old Williams, without even firing a shot, will face 20-30 years in prison just by touching the guns & bullets. He will probably be tried as an adult and spend the rest of his life in prison...

... Secondly, the political climate of 2000 and 2001 will make it difficult for CA Gov. Gray Davis(D) to sign any controversial new gun bills. There is a conventional wisdom that former Demo VP Al Gore lost 4 key states because of guns: Arkansas, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia. Blue collar white Demo voters in these states, who might otherwise have voted for Gore, instead voted for George W. Bush(R) because of guns...

... Back to Calif. There are at least two very controversial bills in the works: **SB 52** by State Sen. Jack Scott and **AB 35** by Assemblyman Kevin Shelley(D-S.F.). Both deal with licensing to acquire handguns. The big opposition to these bills comes from line cop groups (PORAC) and the CA Sheriffs Assn. Why are they opposed to licensing? Calif. already has *de facto* licensing for handguns and thus the cop groups say these bills won't add anything other than bureaucracy. A better solution, sources say, is to beef up the existing basic firearms safety program. FYI: Gov. Davis has already signaled that he's cool to both bills...

... But there may be some bills which Davis might sign, if they get to his desk. These proposals are mostly "clean up bills" to fix problems with existing gun laws and technical

bills. **SB 626** is an assault weapons clean up bill by State Senators Don Perata(D-Oakland) and Peace. **SB 7** is another clean up bill by Peace & Perata. **AB 669** by Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg(D-Van Nuys) deals with the issue of ballistic testing of handguns as a condition of transfer in the State. **AB 1139** by Assemblywoman Helen Thomas and Peace deals with the tricky subject of loaning guns. **AB 22** by Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal(D-Long Beach) deals with state gun dealer licensing. And finally there is **AB 1219** by Assemblyman Dario Frommer(D-L.A.). This bill requires, that as of Jan. 1, 2004, no handgun can be transferred into Calif. unless it is "personalized." We're talking about hi-tech handguns with special features which allows only the registered owner to fire the weapon. The Frommer bill has conceptual support, but the devil is in the details. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: JONES JOINS FAX WAR OF WORDS AS BATTLE BETWEEN DAVIS & GOP GETS HOTTER.

Editor's note: The *fax war* between Calif. Gov. Gray Davis (D) and two potential GOP rivals is beginning to get hotter and hotter, with a little less than a year to go before the Mar. 5, 2002 primary. Here's our update & analysis...

... The turnaround time from one fax to another is sometimes less than 4-5 hours. But make no mistake, political reporters are getting hit with at least 5 faxes per week from either: GOP political consultant Sal Russo; the official Bill Simon for Governor exploratory campaign; CA Secretary of State Bill Jones(R); the CA Republican Party; or from Gov. Davis' chief political honcho, Garry South. And now add former GOP operative John Bressler, who is urging Calif. GOPers to "Draft The Terminator," Arnold Schwarzenegger (known to Calpeek readers as simply Arnold S.). Go to www.schwarzenegger2002.com...

... South uses *faxfacts*, while Russo uses his *The Insider*. The back-and-forth this past week started when South sent out his Mar. 7th edition, RE: *Simon Sez... Nothing?* Got to admit, this keeps political reporters interested in a race which is still a long way off. And South is none to polite when it

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comes to hitting Russo. “Consultant-in-search-of-a-money-bags-candidate Sal Russo, who has been hawking Billy Simon Jr. for weeks...” The point of South’s barb is that Simon Jr. has yet to utter a word or give an interview and he wonders if “Billy is ready for prime time?”...

...Not to be outdone, Russo responds on Mar. 8th: “Sorry, Garry, Your Boss Has a Monopoly on the Secrecy Market (and Electricity Too!).” Russo continues: “The biggest secret in Calif. history is Gov. Gray Davis’ cover-up regarding the state’s energy crisis, including the expenditure of nearly \$50 billion in public funds for electricity.” Then there’s a lull because it’s the weekend. But Monday, Mar. 13th there’s solid news from the Simon camp...

...Former Calif. Republican Party chair John Herrington, who was former U.S. Energy Secretary under Ronald Reagan, has announced that he’s going to chair Simon’s exploratory effort. The announcement comes from Russo, Marsh + Rogers, and again takes several shots at Davis’ energy policy...

...Enter CA Secretary of State Bill Jones also on Mar. 13th, who must be feeling the heat from his own backers to step up and join in the Davis bashing. Jones has yet to announce his 2002 plans, but some insiders think he’ll run for governor, despite the fact that key Calif. GOPers are still furious with him over his backstab of Bush in last year’s GOP presidential primary. The headline on Jones’ fax read, “Jones Denounces Lack of Oversight and Accountability Over Months of Free-Wheeling Energy Spending Spree.” At least all the GOPers are on the same page: bashing Davis over energy. The only problem is that while Jones and Russo are quick to pull the trigger on Davis, they fail to mention who got Calif. into the energy mess in the first place: GOP Gov. Pete Wilson and his PUC. And for 12 years prior to Davis’ taking office, there wasn’t one new power plant built in Calif. Can’t blame that on Davis. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: UPDATE ON L.A. MAYOR’S RACE.

Editor’s note: With a little less than a month to go, the L.A. Mayor’s race has entered a new phase: *paid media*. Here’s our brief update & analysis...

...Calpeek has a new poll to report. This one is from Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Assoc. for businessman Steve Soboroff (500 likely voters, Mar. 7-8). Margin of error is 4.4%+/- . The covering memo notes: “With most of the other candidates registering only single-digit support, the mayoral contest is narrowing to a two-person race.” That’s a little premature. While Soboroff and L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn have been on tv for several weeks now, L.A. Coun-

cilman Joel Wachs and CA Controller Kathleen Connell just started their tv ads the week of Mar. 12th. Former Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa was up on tv beginning in early March. So here is the FMM poll next to the L.A. Times poll for comparison. The L.A. Times survey was taken Feb. 24-Mar. 1 among 532 likely voters:

	<u>FMM</u>	<u>L.A. Times</u>
Jim Hahn	24%	24%
Steve Soboroff	18%	12%
Joel Wachs	12%	11%
Antonio Villaraigosa	9%	12%
Kathleen Connell	4%	8%
Xavier Becerra	3%	10%
Undecided	30%	

...As has been noted before, the L.A. Times poll used random digit dialing, while the FMM poll used a voter file to contact voters. Most political consultants feel that in this mayoral contest, a voter file is much *more accurate* than random digit dialing...

...FYI: why is Soboroff beginning to click? He’s now on radio talking about traffic gridlock. Smart move. And he’s finally mailed to GOP households in L.A. He needed to energize his GOP base – or take it away from Wachs. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: A FIRST TEST FOR PROP. 39 IN L.A. COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S \$1.2 BILLION BOND PLAN.

Editor’s note: The 9 campuses of the L.A. Community College District haven’t had any major improvements in nearly 40 years. But that could change on April 10th if voters in L.A. approve a huge \$1.2 billion bond proposal floated by the college district. As noted in the headline, Prop. A (that’s the letter), needs only a 55% YES vote to win – thanks to the passage last November of Prop. 39. Here’s our brief update & analysis...

...Although some might want to characterize this upcoming vote as a test of Prop. 39, that’s not really fair because the YES on A forces have a comfortable warchest (about \$350,000) vs. almost zip for the NO on A forces, led by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. (HJTA). In addition to the campaign warchest, the community college district is in the midst of a large radio ad buy, promoting the 9 campuses. This isn’t political *per se*, but the timing is fairly suspect...

...Right now the YES on A forces are trying to line up as many slate cards as they can. They’re supposedly offering \$2,000 per slate, but not all slate vendors are accepting...

... Opponents admit that at 55%, Prop. A seems like a winner, but they're not giving up. NO on A forces claim that some of the items included in this huge bond plan (to be paid back over 40 years – cost is thus \$2.5 billion) are frills, such as swimming pools and at least one sports stadium, plus a culinary center (cooking school). "If there were a 2/3rds vote, instead of a 55% vote, some of this stuff wouldn't be included," a NO on A source told Calpeek. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: UPDATE ON L.A. CITY ATTORNEY CONTEST. RIVALS SCRAMBLE FOR ATTENTION.

Editor's note: In addition to the L.A. Mayor's race, there are also two other citywide contests: the battle for city attorney and controller. Here's a brief update & analysis on the battle for *L.A. City Attorney*, with some polling data and fundraising reports. Calpeek attended a Mar. 10th city attorney candidate's forum in L.A. – so we got a good chance to hear what each candidate had to say...

... The biggest problem that the four mostly unknown candidates for L.A. City Attorney have is getting news media attention. In this battle they're up against the *Big 6* candidates for mayor, who dominate news media coverage in the April 10th L.A. City primary election. The four candidates who would like to replace Jim Hahn and run this department of 430 attorneys include L.A. Councilman Michael Feuer, L.A. Deputy Mayor Rocky Delgadillo, L.A. Co. Dep. DA Lea Purwin D'Agostino and L.A. Co. Dep. DA Frank Tavelman. The first three are considered the top contenders, but Tavelman will impact the race because of his *ballot title*. He probably hurts D'Agostino most because if he weren't in the race, she'd have the L.A. Co. Deputy DA title to herself. Tavelman's big problem: no funding...

... Among the top three, D'Agostino is most comfortable talking about the prosecutorial duties of the city attorney and stressing her 23 years of experience as a Deputy DA. And she's now on cable tv with a 1 week buy, touting her record. Feuer is more comfortable talking about his initiatives to get rid of guns & ammo and to ban tobacco and alcohol billboards near schools. As for Delgadillo, he makes a good first impression, but once past his standard pitch, seems *lite* compared to the others. But some think his *market approach* of having non-profits/private sector types buy abandoned crack houses from absentee landlords may catch on. Both Delgadillo and Feuer support the federal consent decree on the L.A. Police Dept., while D'Agostino (and Tavelman) have problems with the consent decree...

... So who's leading? Calpeek has two (2) polls. The L.A. Times poll (532 likely voters, Feb. 24-Mar. 1) and a survey

done for Feuer by S.F. based Gene Bregman (600 likely voters, Feb. 23-25)...

	<u>L.A. Times</u>	<u>Feuer</u>
Feuer	15%	21.2%
D'Agostino	6%	10.5%
Delgadillo	11%	5.5%
Tavelman	3%	5.7%
Undecided	65%	57.1%

... As noted last week, the L.A. Times used a random digit dialing technique as opposed to using a voter file, which most political pollster say is more accurate. Bottomline: this race remains wide open, but if there's a June 5th runoff, Feuer looks like a solid bet to be in it...

... In the fundraising reports, Feuer continues to have the biggest war chest: \$523,694 cash on hand. Delgadillo's COH was \$404,135, while D'Agostino had \$166,228 COH. Tavelman's COH was \$11,862. Perhaps the Feuer poll will help D'Agostino with fundraising – it's certainly something that can't hurt. Delgadillo's big fundraiser on Mar. 13th featured L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, but the mayor again refused to endorse Rocky. Wonder why? FYI: Feuer recently won the endorsement of the L.A. Times. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS.

Editor's note: A number of cities, mostly in the So. Calif. area, held local elections last Tuesday, Mar. 6th. And there were some interesting results. Here's a brief overview...

◆ *South Gate* – This city of about 94,000 rejected a plan to build a \$256 million, 550-megawatt power plant. Although Measure A was advisory only (on whether or not to allow Sunlaw Energy to build an energy plant on 13.5 acres), voters rejected "A" by a 66% to 34% margin. Sunlaw says it will find another location. And South Gate Treasurer Albert Robles was reelected with 49%, defeating two challengers....

◆ *Aliso Viejo* – 93% of voters in Orange Co.'s newest city (34th city in the county) voted for cityhood. The cityhood campaign was run by Waters & Faubel. Newly elected members of the council include Cynthia Pickett, Carmen Vali, Bill Phillips (all from the Aliso Viejo Committee for Cityhood), Greg Ficke and Karl Warkomski. Sources say Aliso Viejo will join the El Toro Reuse Planning Authority in the fight against the proposed airport...

◆ *West Hollywood* – This upscale city of 38,000 always seems to get its share of publicity. The March 6th election was no exception – as voters rejected Measure

A – the *condom initiative*, as it was known nationally. “A” went down by a 59% to 41% margin, despite the fact that YES on A outspent the NO side almost 2-to-1. The city already distributes 350,000 condoms to 40 establishments (mostly gay bars, but some straight places too) at a cost of about \$80,000. It’s a voluntary program. Had “A” been approved, the cost would have doubled and opponents said that to insure compliance, the city would have had to hire “condom cops.” Politically, a big loss for Aids Healthcare Foundation leader Michael Weinstein, who enlisted the help of L.A. Co. Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky and new CA Assemblyman Paul Koretz. Big winners were the bar and restaurant owners, plus West Hollywood Councilmembers Steve Martin and John Heilman. WH Mayor Jeff Prang won reelection and attorney John Duran also won a seat. What’s of interest here is that in 6 years, Duran, Prang and Martin could find themselves locked in a battle for Koretz’s assembly job...

◆ *West Covina* – This eastern L.A. Co. city of 103,000 saw voters oust two incumbent councilmembers. One of those ousted was Rick Melendez. He ran for the State Senate last year and came fairly close to knocking off Assemblyman Bob Margett(R). Easy come, easy go...

◆ *Hawaiian Gardens* – In this tiny city of 14,500, politics centers around just one issue: Dr. Irving Moskowitz, owner of the city’s card club. Politicians are either pro or anti Moskowitz. In the Mar. 6th election, the pro-Moskowitz candidates cleaned house: incumbent Betty Schultze was reelected and two pro-Moskowitz candidates, John Heckerman and Michiko Oyama-Canada, defeated anti-Moskowitz incumbents Lupe Cabrera and Placido Alvarez. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK’S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor’s note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ *Lofgren Vs. Gonzales in San Jose??* – According to Roll Call, the publication covering the U.S. Congress in DC, U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren(D-16) is perhaps thinking of giving up her congressional seat to challenge San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales next year – when his first term comes to an end. They served together on the Santa Clara Co. Board of Supes and never hit it off. Lofgren has been in the U.S. House 4 terms. FYI: for those outside of San Jose, Gonzales and his wife are divorcing because Gonzales confessed to having an affair with an aide. Where have we heard that one before???

■ *Special Election Set for 49th AD* – Gov. Davis has set May 15th for a special election primary to replace newly elected State Sen. Gloria Romero(D). July 10th will be the runoff...

■ *Eu Announces for SOS* – Former Calif. Sec. of State March Fong Eu(D) wants her old job back and she formally announced her candidacy Mar. 13th. Eu will turn 79 in April. Her chief problem is that in her last two terms from 1986 to 1994 she was basically an *absentee officeholder* and insiders know it was her chief deputy, Tony Miller(D), who ran the office. When she kicked off her new campaign this past week, there was a sign which read, “Eu Go Girl!.” And Calpeek remembers the slogan from Eu’s GOP opponent in 1990, former L.A. Councilwoman Joan Flores: “Where Was Eu???” – a reference to the absenteeism. Regardless, Eu still has residual name ID and unless there’s a Demo candidate with big bucks, she’s the frontrunner...

■ *Keep Your Eyes on SB 732* – It’s a bill by State Sen. Deborah Ortiz(D-Sacto) to direct the Dept. of Health Services to establish standards for and remediation of toxic mold. Toxic mold in homes and buildings usually occurs because of construction defects (cracked foundations and improperly nailed roofs allow moisture intrusion – and that is how toxic mold forms). It’s a hot issue and very recently

CALPEEK’S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor’s note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We’ve got a ton of them...

● Sacto-based Leslie Goodman is trading in her GOP spin doctor badge and political consulting uniform to become Sr. VP of strategic communications for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts. Goodman will be based in the L.A. area...

● Former GOP Congressman Jim Rogan of Glendale has become a partner in the Baltimore-based law firm of Venable, Baetjer, Howard & Civiletti...

● Former L.A. Deputy Mayor and p/a executive Stephanie Bradfield has opened her own communications/public affairs firm. ☎(323)667-3044 or sbradfield@earthlink.net...

● Matthew Kagan has left as U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer’s So. Calif. director to become a VP with the political consulting firm of Greer, Margolis, Mitchell et al in the firm’s Santa Monica office. Kagan had been with Boxer 9 years...

● DNC Chair Terry McAuliffe has named Demo Party activist (and DNC member) Alice Huffman as a co-chair of the 2004 convention site advisory committee...